



MATCH REPORT

BANBRIDGE HOCKEY CLUB

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	RESULT	TIME	COMPETITION
15/11/2019	H 2019/20 1 1 BANGOR 2S	20:15	
ROSS MCCANDLESS (1)			

Banbridge men's thirds, sponsored by Edina, welcomed Bangor seconds to Havelock Park for a Friday night fixture following last weekends postponed against Instonians. The game survived the cold conditions and Bann had a full squad to select from with Andrew Dickson available.

Bann started brightly with McConnell and Dean linking well together upfront but both failed to test the Bangor keeper. Bangor grew into the quarter and managed to exert some pressure on the Bann defence. Grimes was in fine form in the Bann goal and made a couple of early saves. Bann won a couple of short corners in the quarter but the injections were off target and Bann failed to capitalise. Bangor had the better of the start of the second quarter but the quarter turned into a midfield tussle. Dean missed an excellent opportunity after Ross McCandless found him in the circle unmarked. Scott McCandless, Brown and Dickson were battling well and Rowe had a couple of flashes of brilliance but failed to convert into a goal scoring opportunities as the half finished in a goalless stalemate.

The game continued to be an evenly contested encounter in the second half. Burns and Bennington were distributing the ball well from defence and Best and McConnell worked a good opportunity to test the Bangor keeper. Bangor should have opened the scoring but the final pass eluded the Bangor forward after a promising attack. Bangor won a couple of short corners in the quarter but Grimes saved both and Bann managed to clear the danger. As the game entered the final quarter the deadlock was eventually broken. Bangor won another short corner and made no mistake this time with a strong flick into the bottom corner of the Bann goal. Bann knew they had to force the tempo and were unlucky to see a short corner of their own cleared off the line by a Bangor defender. The Bangor keeper saved well from Wilson and Rowe fired over a reverse stick effort. As the game opened up Bangor nearly doubled their lead with a great counter attack. Bann continued to push forward and in the dying seconds of the game were awarded a short corner for a deliberate foul in the twenty-five. Ross McCandless equalised with a fierce low drag flick to rescue a point for Bann with the final whistle being blown after the short corner.

Bann thirds are still unbeaten in the league after three games but know they will need to convert draws into wins in order to remain at the top end of the junior league. Bann face a tough trip to local Lisnagarvey on Saturday to play their thirds and were on the wrong side of a 6-5 defeat in the league cup when they met at the beginning of the season.

Bandbridge Hockey Club